

Flashes In Focus

by EARL NEWSOM

GUIDES TO GOOD MOVIES

Have you ever seen home movies and spent a boring evening looking at someone's Aunt Mary and Uncle Henry? Do other people's vacation movies bore you to death? Are your vacation movies boring to your friends? If the answer to these questions is "yes," then listen closely. There are a few elementary steps that may help you make better movies.

The first rule for making good vacation movies, or for that matter, good movies of any kind, is to make technically good movies. Use a light meter to get the proper exposure. If your camera has a focusing lens by all means focus on your subject. Nothing loses interest faster than poorly exposed and out of focus movies.

If you wish to have vacation movies that bring the "oohs and ahhs" from an audience, don't take a picture of your wife and the base of the Statue of Liberty, or your wife at the brink of Niagara Falls, or your wife blocking the view of the Grand Canyon. People can see your wife every day of the year but they don't get to see the Grand Canyon that often. Its interest in pictures but have them as a secondary subject. Concentrate on scenery.

EDIT

The next step to making interesting movies is to edit them. This step takes little time but it is worth every minute. By removing bad spots in the film and working up some continuity you hold your audiences interest.

TITLES

Another item that helps hold interest is titles. If you don't wish to make special titles for each place visited you might use the city limit signs or markers of historical significance. (This is the one place you might include your wife. Have her standing next to the sign.)

PROJECTION

Try to have your equipment set up before any of your guests start to arrive. If they have come to see home movies they don't want to wait while you fool with equipment.

If you happen to be exceptionally ambitious you might even tape record your narrative and synchronize it with the projector.

If you do all these things I believe your movies will be more interesting to your guests and be a source of great pleasure and pride to yourself.

FLASH! IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

If you haven't already heard of, read a report of, or tried a new Kodachrome II, let me have the pleasure of introducing you.

Kodachrome II is said, by Kodak, to have a higher speed (ASA 25 daylight and ASA 40 in the type A), finer grain and higher resolution. From the results I've seen it lives up to all the claims and then some. For the first time users of eight millimeter have the chance to make movies that could come close to passing as 16mm. The film also seems to have truer color than regular Kodachrome.

Like to try some? The cost is a little bit higher and delivery to dealers is limited. Chances are it won't be easily available to movie-makers for a few months but if you are lucky enough to find some at your camera store you are sure to get a big treat using it.

QUESTIONS

If there are any questions I can answer in this column on photography or related subjects send them to: Flashes Focus, c/o Torrance Press, 3238 Sepulveda Blvd. Torrance, California. If the question is of general interest, and I can answer it I'll be glad to help. I'm sorry but time won't permit any personal answers.

Pete Reitz Host Dinner Party

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Reitz hosted a dinner party at The Polynesian Restaurant for a group of friends who are visiting Torrance from Papeete, Tahiti.

Guests of honor were Miss Tarita Terriipaia, Matahi and Reri Moana, Leo Lanzonini and Mr. and Mrs. J. Vernaudon, all of Tahiti. The group also included Dr. and Mrs. John Kessel, Miss Judy Walsh, Mrs. Moea Baty, Miss Nicole Vernaudon and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vallente.

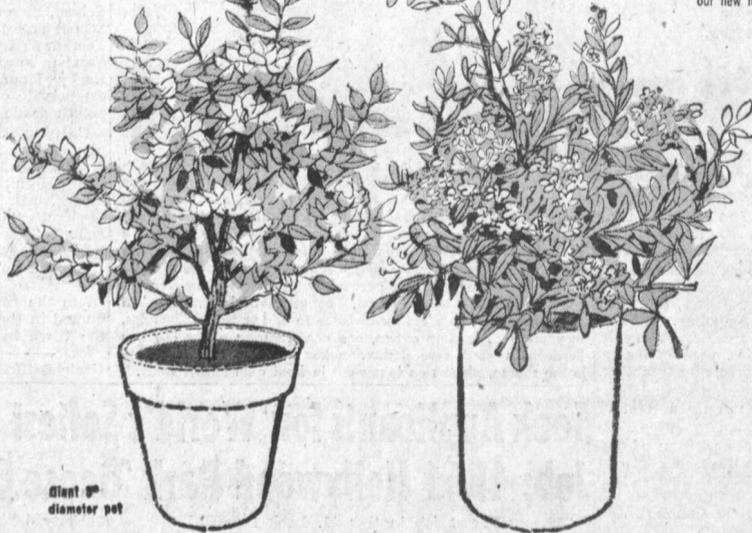
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LOS ANGELES
2265 E. VERNON AVE.
FR. 5-1153

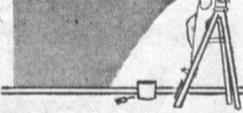
VAN NUYS
7724 VAN NUYS BLVD.
TR. 3-1026, ST. 2-2770

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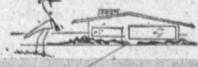
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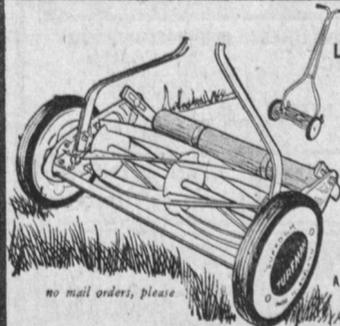


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